



***San Diego County
Fish & Wildlife Advisory Commission***

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DRAFT MINUTES

July 14, 2005

Meeting Location: California Department of Fish and Game
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

COMMISSIONERS	DISTRICT
Jack Bransford, Chair	1
Paul Kelpin	1
Florence Sloane	2
Ben Tulloch, Secretary	2
Rob Wilder	3
Teresa Barth	3
D'erdra Smothers, Ph.D, Vice-Chair	4
Jim Dodd	4
Mike Pottorff	5
Jim Conrad	5

A. Meeting called to order at: 6:35 p.m.

B. Introductions:

The Commissioners introduced themselves.

Dan Beintema, Representing Chula Vista Nature Center

Steve Sarmiento, Representing Senior Volunteers for Fish and Game

Mary Sarmiento, Representing Senior Volunteers for Fish and Game

Michael Shane, Representing Hubbs-Sea World

Dawn Nielsen, Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures, Staff for the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

C. Minutes for June 9, 2005 were approved with the correction of the spelling of Commissioner Smothers' name. Motion (Conrad), seconded (Dodd). Commissioner Tulloch abstained.

D. Public Comment

Michael Shane of Hubbs- Sea World gave his final report for grant # 2004-08 Development of an acoustic monitoring array in Agua Hedionda Lagoon. This project tracked the movement of cultured juvenile white seabass and other marine fishes. The grant paid for 20 acoustic tags and 12 hydrophones. Hubbs-Seaworld included an additional 5 tags in the study. These tags were inserted into white seabass. A series of hydrophones were installed in the area where the fish were released. These hydrophones are designed to monitor the fish as they pass by. The hydrophone picks up the signal from the tag and captures data as to date and time. Hubbs-Sea World also carried out active tracking in a boat using GPS, which enable the boat operator to track the actual movement of the fish. Since the hydrophones were in the water for seven months, data was picked up from leopard sharks which had been tagged up north.

Mr. Shane said he would send a written report in about two weeks. The Commissioners requested it include receipts for equipment.

Mr. Shane also discussed Hubbs – Sea World’s current grant request #2005/6 – 05 for Determining the Potential for Predation by Harbor Seals on Tagged White Seabass. The data from the previous study showed several of the fish had been eaten by harbor seals, and perhaps even had been stalked by harbor seals. The acoustic tag used on the white seabass is used in many other fish studies around the world. This grant project is to determine if the sound emitted from the tag is audible to predators such as harbor seals, thus increasing the likelihood of predation. A sound acoustic study seemed to show that harbor seals may hear the pinging sound emitted by transmitters. Researchers will purchase 5 tags to develop sound curves for harbor seals. The next phase will be to test on a harbor seal trained to indicate if the seal can hear a sound. The benefit will be a better understanding of the effects of the tags and knowledge if the tags are skewing research data.

E. Chairman’s Report –

Postponed to next meeting.

F. Administrative Items:

Old Business

1. **Commission Video Project - (Pottorff/Conrad)**
Tabled until next meeting.
2. **San Diego Freshwater Fish Project (Pottorff)**
Tabled until next meeting.
3. **Monthly Meeting with CDFG (Larry Eng)**
No meeting held.
4. **Mitigation of Border Fence Impacts (Sloane)**
Tabled until next meeting.

5. **Handling of fines/forfeiture monies for Fish and Game (Sloane)**

Tabled until next meeting.

6. **Giant Sea Bass (Wilder)**

Supervisors Cox and Slater-Price sent the FWAC Commissioners a letter with an attached letter sent to Mr. Aquirre, District Attorney, on their concern regarding this incident and subsequent case. Copies of the letter were distributed at meeting.

7. **Grant Application (Bransford)**

Dawn Nielsen indicated that the Commissioner had \$43,000 appropriated for grants for this fiscal year. Additional funds for appropriation would need to be voted on by the Commissioners in order to be submitted for approval at the first quarter review. This would be available in time for January funding meeting.

The following grants were considered for approval.

1. 2005/06-01 San Diego Quail Unlimited and California Department of Fish and Game. \$775.00 for vandalism repair and fire protection at Hollenbeck Canyon.

Mr. Michael Thometz spoke on behalf of this grant.

Motion was made (Pottorff) and seconded (Tulloch) to fund the grant in full. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. 2005/06-02 Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, \$15,000 to drill a well for continuous water supply at wildlife ponds.

Motion was made (Kelpin), and seconded (Sloane) to not fund this grant. The discussion that followed indicated that the grant did not have enough budget detail. If the grant was not approved, Commissioner Barth wanted to indicate the reason why in a letter and invite them to file another grant next funding cycle. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. 2005/06-03 California Department of Fish and Game, Game Bird Heritage Special Hunt Program – Requesting \$4,500 for live Chinese Ringneck Rooster Pheasants.

Motion was made (Tulloch), and seconded (Kelpin) to fund this grant in full. Discussion followed on the whether this met the criteria for a grant. Eight voted in favor (Bransford, Conrad, Dodd, Kelpin, Pottorff, Sloane, Smothers, and Tulloch) and two opposed (Wilder and Barth). The motion was carried.

4. 2005/06-04 Chula Vista Nature Center, Requesting \$25,000 for fabrication/construction of exhibit and life support system for exhibit for Rainbow Trout.

Mr. Beintema reviewed the grant project noting the grant request was a part of a larger reconstruction project at the Nature Center. He answered questions concerning project timeline, matching funds, and governing agency (City of Chula

Vista).

Motion was made (Kelpin), and seconded (Conrad) to fund the grant in full. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. 2005/06-05 Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute, Requesting \$8,055 for supplies (\$2,400), equipment (\$5,175), and indirect costs (\$480) for white seabass study. The motion was made (Bransford) and seconded (Conrad) to fund the grant, less the indirect costs (\$480) for a total of \$7,575. The motion was approved unanimously.
6. 2005/06-06 San Diego River Park Foundation, Community based Engelmann Oak Habitat Restoration Project. \$7,200 for removal of non-native annual grasses and restoration of native plants.

Motion was made (Kelpin) to not fund this grant. Seconded (Sloane). The discussion that followed indicated that the grant did not have enough budget detail. If this grant was not approved, Commissioner Barth wanted to indicate the reason why in a letter and invite them to file another grant next funding cycle. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. FWAC Website – Maintenance and Updating (Pottorff/Bransford)

Tabled until next meeting.

9. East County MSCP (Barth/Conrad)

Tabled until next meeting.

New Business:

1. Business Cards
Dawn Nielsen discussed business cards. Business cards will have FWAC logo and Commissioner's name and County phone number and phone number of Commissioner's choice. Commissioners indicated they wanted their email addresses also. Dawn said she would verify. She also said name plates and name tags for the Commissioners would be purchased.
2. Semi-annual Report
Dawn Nielsen presented a draft semi-annual report. Chair Bransford asked Commissioners with changes or additions to send them to Dawn Nielsen so she could prepare a report for the next meeting. The final report needs to be submitted in August. Commissioner Sloane asked if there was verification that the Board of Supervisors received and accepted the report. Dawn said she would check into it, and report back.

G. Commissioner's Corner

Commissioner Smothers asked Dawn Nielsen if her research revealed any history of County Wardens. Dawn responded that she had not found any knowledge of county wardens.

Commissioner Kelpin asked the status of plaques for former commissioners.
Commissioner Pottorff indicated that he was working on this.

Commissioner Conrad said on June 15th, there was another major violation of a taking a sea bass by a local commercial fisherman. Commissioner Wilder said he had an article on this incident.

Item for next month's agenda: Refinement of Evaluation Process.

H. Adjournment Time: 8:45 pm